

Arts in Ada

- •Saturday May 21st
- •9am 4pm
- •Fine Art and Crafters
- •Music, dance and all day fun

Inside this Issue:

Ada Historical Society

News from the Park

Neighborhood Watch Update

Patriots Wanted

Spring Clean Up Day

Ada Happenings and more

Arts in Ada is back

Saturday May 21, 2005

The annual "Arts in Ada" Festival, hosted by the Ada Council for the Arts, will be held in its original location on Bronson Street in front of the historic Ada Township Assembly Hall (formerly Ada Congregational Church). This year's event will be held on Saturday, May 21, 2005 from 9am – 4pm. The event features a variety of artists displaying and selling their quality wares along Bronson St. as well as continuous music and dance performances, all with no admission charge.

In addition to dancers from Ada Dance Academy, there will be a Juried Art Gallery and Distinct Craft Marketplace that will include Fiber arts, Painting, Sculpture, Wood, Photography, Jewelry, Pottery, Glass, mixed media, digital art & more. Also, included will be art activities for the children and food and refreshments.

We are looking forward to a beautiful day and a wonderful turn out. This is a fun day for everyone and a celebration of local talent. Mark your calendars now for Saturday, May 21st, 2005 and join in the celebration of art and community of this wonderful event! For further details please contact Ann Teliczan (616) 676-2333. teliczan4@comcast.net

Spring Clean Up!

The semi-annual Ada Township "Clean Up Your Act" day will be 8AM-2: 30PM Saturday May 14th, 2005 at the Kent County Road Commission on Fase Street.

Please remember that you must live within Ada or Cascade Township to drop off any trash, household items or yard waste. If you have any questions about items that are disposable on this day please contact

Clerk Deb Millhuff millhuff@ada.mi.us or 676-9191 Wendy at the park parkwendy@ada.mi.us or 676-0520



Interested In:

How the Election Process really works? Being the 1st on the block to know the results? Willing to work long hours for average pay? The Clerk is looking for a few good residents to help with the upcoming School Election Tuesday May 3, 2005 Contact: Clerk Deb Ensing Millhuff millhuff@ada.mi.us or (616) 676-9191 ext: 21 For an application

Two Men Made Museum Possible

The Ada community is richer for the love of history and caring of two local men.

Frank Averill is a descendant of early pioneers, Levi and Katherine Averill, who settled here in the 1870's. Levi was a retired sea captain who bought land where the Alticor Headquarters is now located. He was known as a gentleman farmer who had a large herd of cattle. He was Frank's great grandfather.

Streets in the Ada area bear names of early pioneer families. Bradfield, Bronson, Teeple, Headley, and Pettis are some of those streets. There was no street or landmark bearing the Averiall name, so in 1993, Frank deeded a beautiful lot on the corner of Teeple and Headley streets to the Ada Historical Society. He had purchased the lot from his grandfather's estate and the gift to the society stipulated that a museum was to be placed there bearing the Averill family name.

However, Frank held a life lease on the home on the property until Ada Township purchased the life lease in 1997.

Floyd Chaffee was also a descendant of a pioneer family. He lived in the village almost all of his life. He was a single man who spent many hours and days studying local history and collecting artifacts relating to early times in Ada.

Floyd donated land he owned in Ada Township to the historical society to be sold to pay for needed improvements to the farm house on the Averill property that was to become our museum. Floyd also donated the many, many artifacts he had collected through the years. These artifacts comprise the vast majority of items on display in the museum.

Floyd died in April of 1999. The museum opened August 14 of that same year.

Neither of these men was wealthy but each had an enduring love for the community and its history.

New Display at Museum Focuses on Reuse

There is a new display at the Averill Historical Museum of Ada. The display depicts the way families once reused items many times and many ways instead of the disposable society of today.

Most people did not have the disposable income we have today, nor did families have ready access to stores and shops.

Come see how items were recycled and reused in the olden days.

The museum is open 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Friday, Saturday, and Sunday or by special appointment by calling 676-9346.

A Note from the Ada Township Clerk

Spring has sprung and burning desire has begun! Of course there are restrictions.

So here are a few quick reminders

1) If you reside south of Fulton St. you do live in the burn restriction area and are only allowed to burn yard debris through Friday, April 30th.

 If you live in the non-restricted area, you must first pick up a burning permit from the Clerk's office Monday-Friday 8:00am-5pm. All burn permits are issued for either Monday-Thursday or Friday-Sunday and must be applied for in person. There is no charge.

3) If you have any question regarding recreational fires, please contact Fire Chief DuVall at 676-2376.

ALL BURNING REQUIRES A PERMIT at No Cost! www.ada.mi.us

Does Your House Hold Hazardous Waste?

The Kent County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program was developed to provide county residents with a safe and effective means to dispose of their unwanted hazardous materials. How do you tell if something could be hazardous? Read the product labels. Words such as "Danger", "Poison", "Warning", or "Caution" will identify products that contain hazardous ingredients. When these products are discarded, they become household hazardous wastes. These products generally fall into five categories:

• Cleaning Products: Drain openers, oven cleaners, polishes, and spot removers.

• Automotive Products: Gasoline and solvents, brake or transmission fluids, car batteries, polishes and waxes.

• Paint and Paint Products: Thinners, mineral spirits, oil base paints, stains and varnishes, aerosol cans, epoxies and adhesives.

• Pesticides: Weed killers, insecticides, fertilizers, wood preservatives, rat or insect poisons.

• Miscellaneous: Pool chemicals, driveway sealer, roofing tar, hobby or photo chemicals, mercury, and batteries (Ni-Cad, lithium, alkaline, etc.).

Call (616) 336-2501 to set an appointment most convenient for you, and for more information on Kent County's Solid Waste Recycling and HHW Programs. This program is free to the residents of Kent County, but cannot accept materials from farms, businesses, offices, or institutions. To keep the service free and prevent illegal dumping of materials, residents need to call for an appointment. Some other basic guidelines for this program can be obtained by calling the above phone numbers.

Kent County also publishes a guide on waste disposal and recycling options and alternatives. Copies of this document are available at the Township Offices. In addition, common household batteries (excluding auto batteries) can be dropped off for recycling in the container in the lobby at the Township offices.

News from the Parks Dept.

We are eagerly awaiting the arrival of spring. It wasn't the greatest winter season for outdoor activity in the parks. The winter flooding of the Grand River made Roselle Park inaccessible for cross-country skiing. Once the water had receded it left behind a large buildup of ice. The entire wetland area was like a huge skating pond - only very dangerous. There were a few days when there was enough good snow that skiers were able to take advantage of their sport at Ada Park. For three weeks in January we were able to keep the ice skating pond at Leonard Field frozen, and it got a lot of use while it was available. Because of the up and down temperatures making winter difficult, the Parks Department staff is hopeful that spring is just around the corner!

Activity will soon pick up at Ada Park. If you weren't able to make it to the park over the winter you will notice a change on the playground. A new play structure was installed in November. It has climbers and slides, and a telescope for looking at the horses across the street. It also has a maze game attached to it. We hope it will bring the children many hours of fun and exercise.

The Parks Dept. (office located at Ada Park) hours will be changing with the spring months. Beginning April 4th there will be staff on duty Monday - Saturday from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Once softball season starts there will be staff in the parks until dusk on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Between Memorial Day weekend and Labor Day weekend there will be staff at the parks seven days a week from 8:00 a.m. until closing (at dusk). Remember, we are not always in the office. When work needs to be done in the parks or programs are being presented, the staff is somewhere in the parks. When possible the staff will post a notice on the office door when they will be returning or where in the parks they can be found.

The parks close at dusk. The gates to the parking lots are closed and locked for the night at that time. If your vehicle is in the parking area when security comes to lock the gates, it will be locked in for the night. Gates open for the day at 8:00 a.m.

If you are planning a family gathering at Ada Park for this summer and you haven't made a reservation yet, you may want to call the office (676-0520). Weekend reservations for the shelter and gazebo are filling up. Starting May 1 those folks living outside Ada Township will be able to make reservations, and available dates will disappear fast. Reservation fees for the shelter are \$25 for residents and \$75 for resident businesses. The fees for the gazebo (overlooking the pond)

are \$15 or \$150 to hold a wedding.

Softball league games will be starting the first week of May. If you would like to get a team into the league you can contact Rob McCormick at the park office (676-0520). Men's slow pitch teams play on Tuesday and Thursday; Coed teams play on Wednesday; and Men's fast pitch teams play on Thursday. Get a bunch of friends together and join the league, it's a fun way to spend the evening and great exercise too! Looking to join a team? Contact Rob and he'll pass your name on to team managers. There usually are teams that are looking to pick up a few players.

Programs

It's going to be a busy spring! We hope you will be able to join us for some fun (and educational) activities. The schedule of summer programs will be published in mid-May and distributed through the local elementary schools. If you don't have a student in the elementary grades, you can pick up a flyer at the Park Office, the Township Hall or call 676-0520 to be placed on the mailing list.

Earth Day

Join us for two days of activities geared to make the planet we



live on a better place. On Friday, April 22 (actual Earth Day) children from Central Woodlands and Northern Trails schools will be helping to beautify Ada Village. The children will be split into small groups and armed with protective gloves and trash bags then dispersed throughout the town to pick up litter along the streets and park areas. We need

volunteers to supervise these groups of children as they make their way around the village. If you have the time to assist in this clean up, contact Wendy Tatar at 676-0520 to volunteer. The children have been volunteering their time to help clean up litter for many years and we are forever grateful to Nell Belding and Annette Whithum for volunteering their classrooms to do this again this year.

An entire day of activities will be held at Ada Park on Saturday, April 23rd in celebration of Earth Day. We'll begin the day by having an RIP (Remove Invasive Plants) party. At 9:30 AM anyone interested in eliminating Garlic Mustard from Ada Park is invited to join the party. We'll meet in the Les Craig Learning Center to learn about the invasive exotic plant first, then head out into the park for a pulling party. At Noon, Park Director Wendy Tatar will present "Turning Your Yard Into a Wildlife Habitat." This program will be geared for families. Information presented will show participants

how to make their yard a place where wild animals would want to live. Seating for this free program is limited. To guarantee a seat, please register ahead of time by calling 676-0520. At 2:00 PM Wendy will lead a Woodland Wildflower Walk through Ada Park. Please gather at the park shelter for this adventure. To wrap up the day, a presentation on the Frogs & Toads of Michigan will be given at 3:30 PM in the Les Craig Learning Center. Although no live amphibians will be available to look at, the presentation will teach you how to tell which frog you are hearing on spring evenings. Seating for this free program is limited. To guarantee a seat, please register ahead of time.

Grand Rapids Audubon to Lead Birding Hike at Roselle Park

On Friday, April 29th members of the Grand Rapids Audubon Club will lead an evening exploratory hike at Roselle Park. During the spring bird migration in 2004, members of this club saw many migratory birds here that aren't often seen. This included a yellow rail that is listed as a threatened species in Michigan. Steve Minard and Wendy Tatar will lead this hike through the new park. Birders of all skills are welcome. Participants are asked to meet in the parking lot at 6:30 PM. As this area is prone to be wet, participants are encouraged to wear knee-high boots or waders. Wearing insect repellent is recommended. Bring your field guides, binoculars and/or scopes. For more information contact Wendy Tatar at the Parks Department Office, 676-0520.

Arbor Day

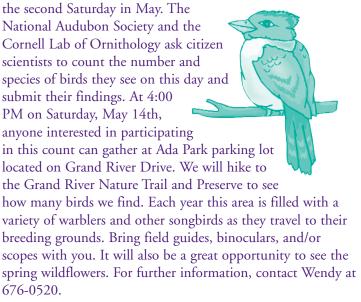
Julius Morton held the first Arbor Day on April 10, 1872 in Nebraska to celebrate trees. In 1970, President Nixon proclaimed the last Friday in April as National Arbor Day. To celebrate this national day there will be several programs presented at Ada Park on Saturday, April 30th. At 10:00 AM join us for "Tree Planting 101" which will be held in the Les Craig Learning Center. Participants will learn how to choose the right tree for their yard. The session will also discuss where not to plant trees and proper planting techniques. Seating for this free program is limited. To guarantee a seat, please register ahead of time by calling 676-0520. At 2:00 PM Park Director Wendy Tatar will lead a walk through the Bud Locke Arboretum. The history of the Arboretum will be presented and participants will discuss the different species of trees, both native and non-native, located there.

Mother's Day Craft for Kids

Children will have the opportunity to craft a gift for Mom or Grandma on Sunday, May 7th. This is a great opportunity for Dad to spend some quality time with the kids. At 10:00 AM children ages 2-5 will have the opportunity to craft something special (with parent assistance). At 11:15 AM children ages 6 and up will get their turn. Pre-registration is required for this program. There will be a fee of \$2.50 per child for Ada Township residents and \$5.00 for non-residents. Call 676-0520 to register.

Migratory Bird Count

International Migratory Bird Day is celebrated each year on



Perennial Exchange



Looking for new plants to brighten your garden but low on cash? Daylilies overgrown? We've got the perfect solution for your gardening dilemma. On Saturday, May 21st, a Perennial Exchange will occur from 9:00 AM – Noon in the Ada Park parking lot behind the softball fields. You bring the plants that you're tired of and exchange them for plants that other gardeners have brought. This is a

great and inexpensive way to "remodel" your yard. For further information, contact Wendy at 676-0520. Held rain or shine.



Woodland Wildflower Walk

Join us at 10:00 AM on Saturday, May 28th for a walk through the woods of Ada Park and the Grand River Nature Trail and Preserve. Meet at the shelter. Dress for the weather. Wearing insect repellent is recommended. We'll walk several miles so be sure to wear good hiking boots or shoes. Don't forget your camera! This program will be cancelled by severe weather.



Morning Bird Hike

An excursion through Ada Park and the Grand River Nature Trail and Preserve in search of birds will begin at 7:30 AM on

Saturday, June 4th. Meet at the shelter to begin this walk. Dress for the weather and a long hike. Wearing insect repellent is recommended. Bring field guides, binoculars, and/or scopes

with you. This walk will be cancelled by severe weather.

American Cancer Society Relay for Life

The American Cancer Society's annual Relay for Life walk will be held at Ada Park on Friday and Saturday, June 9 and 10. This is the seventh year for this event to be held at Ada Park. Teams are formed by individuals and businesses to compete each year in this 24-hour relay. Teams raise money in a variety of ways to assist in the fight against cancer. Each team has to have a member walking in route through the park at all times during the 24-hour period. The relay begins at 3:00 PM on Friday and ends at 3:00 PM on Saturday. This is the only time that camping is allowed in the Township Parks. Last year, over \$300,000 was raised. During this event, only team captains or challenged individuals are allowed to park within the parking areas at Ada Park. You must have a pass or a handicap sticker to enter these parking areas. Shuttles will be running to and from Ada Park to get you to the parking areas available at Ada Elementary School, Ada Christian School, Ada Congregational Church and the Ada Community Reformed Church. This event supports a very good cause and we thank you for your understanding and patients through this event.



Neighborhood Watch Update

The Kent County Sheriff's Department's East Precinct is seeking volunteers interested in patrolling the East Trail Pathways running throughout Ada, Cascade and Grand Rapids Townships. Any interested individuals, 18 years or older, willing to walk, run, bike, or rollerblade through the trails, can be great support to this newly expanding program.

Volunteers' responsibilities will include but are not limited to:

- Providing assistance to citizens in need of any police or medical problems.
- Reporting any crimes or unusual activities.

• Notifying the Sheriff's Department of any damage or vandalism located along the trails.

If you would like to become an East Trail Volunteer and help support this program, please stop into the East Precinct Monday - Thursday, 8:30am - 4:30pm and ask to fill out our brief questionnaire.

For additional details or any questions regarding the East Trail Volunteers, feel free to contact your East Precinct Community Police Officers, Deputy Todd Probst or Deputy Ryan Coil, at the following numbers:

todd.probst@kentcounty.org Phone# 632-6436

ryan.coil@kentcounty.org Phone# 632-6435



A Note from the Treasurer

How are the taxes paid to Ada Township distributed?

Below you will find a breakdown of taxes that have been collected for the 2004 tax year, and details as to the distributions that have been made by the Treasurer's office:

Taxes disbursed to schools	\$ 9,669,074.77
Taxes disbursed to Kent Intermediate Schools	\$ 3,225,515.95
Taxes disbursed to Grand Rapids Community College	\$ 1,271,107.96
Taxes disbursed to State-State Education Tax	\$ 362,761.07
Taxes disbursed to Kent County for State Education Tax	\$ 4,198,792.82
Taxes disbursed to Kent County (other than SET)	\$ 3,742,910.20
Taxes disbursed to Kent District Library	\$ 618,710.78
Taxes disbursed to Ada Township	\$ <u>1,788,948.18</u>
Total taxes collected for summer and winter 2004 taxes	\$24,877,821.73

If you have any questions regarding taxes and distribution please contact (616) 676-9191 Monday – Friday 8AM-5PM

Treasurer Diane Pratt ext 23 or pratt@ada.mi.us Deputy Treasurer Gina ... ext 27 or deputytreas@ada.mi.us

Township Seeks Open Space Sites

The Open Space Preservation Advisory Board is currently taking nominations from property owners or other interested citizens of candidate properties to be considered for acquisition by the Township for permanent protection as undeveloped open space. The Township has funding available from the voterapproved "Parks and Land Preservation" millage to purchase property for preservation in an undeveloped state.

The Township's Open Space Preservation Plan provides guidance on the high priority locations and types of property the Township wishes to preserve. Applications will be reviewed and evaluated against the adopted rating criteria by the Advisory Board, which makes recommendations to the Township Board regarding properties to acquire. Highest priority is given to the following land categories, in order of priority:

1. Floodplain, wetlands, and woodlands along the Grand River.

2. Wetlands surrounding Chase Lake in the northeast part of the Township.

3. 20-30 acres for public park use along Ada Drive, between Colner Ave. and Forest Hills Central.

4. Agricultural land in the northeast quadrant of the Township, generally north of 2 Mile Rd. and east of Honey Creek Ave.

5. Over 200 acres of wooded hills and river bottom wetlands, along the east side of the Grand River, north of 3 Mile Rd.

6. Over 60 acres of wooded land and Honey Creek frontage, between Dogwood Ave. and Honey Creek Ave.

7. An undetermined acreage for a community Township park, along Pettis Ave., south of Knapp St.

Forms for offering or nominating property for consideration to be acquired, as well as rules and procedures for the open space preservation program, can be obtained from the Township Planning Dept., at 676-9191, Ext. 31, or from the Township's web site, at www.ada.mi.us.

Ada Township is one of a handful of communities across the state with formal programs and a dedicated funding source for acquisition and permanent preservation of important open space lands.

A Note from the Supervisor/ Utility Director

Don't Get Washed Out of Your Home

Each year, sewer and drain backups cause millions of dollars in damage to basements. Homeowner's policies may not include coverage for losses incurred from sewer and drain backups. Check with your agent to see if you need additional coverage.

Since no one wants to experience the mess, inconvenience and out-of-pocket expenses that come with this problem, preventing backups from occurring is the best solution.

- Gutter downspouts should extend away from the home to carry water away from basement walls.
- Your yard should be graded to slope away from the house.
- Consider installing a sump pump.
- Store items off the floor in basements.
- Place furniture on casters and away from floor drains.

Supervisor/Utility Director George Haga ghaga@ada.mi.us

Utility Assitant Diane utility@ada.mi.us or 676-9191 ext: 33

How are we doing?

The Ada Township Board and staff are always interested in your comments and ideas. Please, contact us at the Ada Township Hall 7330 Thornapple River Drive PO Box 370 Ada MI 49301 or by accessing our web site at www.ada.mi.us, we are very interested in what you have to say so please do not hesitate to share your concerns and/or ideas.

Monday-Friday 8AM-5PM (616) 676-9191

Yard Waste Pick-Up

Yard waste / leaf pick-up is available for residents in the restricted burn zone only! If you are an Ada Township resident living south of Fulton St. (M-21) you qualify!

All pick-ups must be on the curb by 6AM and in Ada Township Logo bags. Bags are available at the Township Hall M-F 8AM-5PM for \$0.50 each (free if you are over 60 years)

> Tuesday April 26th Tuesday May 17th

What is Storm Water Runoff?

One of the most significant, yet unrecognized groups of water contaminants is storm water pollutants. When it rains, storm water runs over yards, streets, roads, highways, parking lots, parks, and playgrounds, carrying with it everything in its path, including debris and pollutants. Eventually, the water will travel to a stream, either over land or via a storm drain. Storm drains are frequently located alongside streets and parking lots. Unlike sanitary sewers that divert water to a treatment plant directly from your home, storm drains lead directly to surrounding lakes and rivers without any type of treatment. All the debris and pollutants that were picked up by storm water runoff, end up in your lakes and streams!

Where Does the Pollution Come From? Most contaminants are made up of common items used by residents, businesses and visitors, such as fertilizers, car oils and greases, yard clippings, soil, and pet wastes. Below are some tips you can follow to help keep pollution from entering lakes and streams via storm water runoff.

Tips to Keep Your Rivers, Lakes and Streams Clean

- Never dump anything down a storm drain!
- Use an oil pan when changing oil to keep fluids off the pavement. Check local body shops and quick lubes to find a place to appropriately dispose of used oil.
- Dispose of pet wastes in a trash can.
- Leave grass clippings on your lawn as an alternate nutrient to fertilizer. If a fertilizer is necessary, choose a slow-release product and test your soil to find out how much fertilizer your lawn actually needs.
- Wash your car on your lawn so excess water, chemicals, and dirt is filtered through the lawn.
- Keep household hazardous wastes, such as harsh cleaners, paint, car fluids, and batter ies from entering lakes and streams by dis posing at a household hazardous waste cen ter. Try using environmentally-safe alternatives or recipes with non-hazardous ingredients.
- Use a broom rather than a hose to clean up grass clippings and dirt.
- Keep a trash bag in your car...and use it!

This article was written by Tetra Tech MPS as a part of MDOT's Storm Water Management Plan. For more information, check out www.mdot.state.mi.us/stormwater.

THE ADA VIEW

Publication Notes . . .

Ada Township Hall is located at 7330 Thornapple River Drive Open Monday – Friday (except holidays) 8AM-5PM (616) 676-9191

Ada Township Board Supervisor George Haga ghaga@ada.mi.us Ext: 50

Clerk Deb Ensing Millhuff millhuff@ada.mi.us Ext:21

Treasurer Diane Pratt pratt@ada.mi.us Ext: 23

Trustees

Randy Damstra damstra@ada.mi.us Robert Proos proos@ada.mi.us Mischelle Sytsma sytsma@ada.mi.us John Westra westra@ada.mi.us

You may also access township information at www.ada.mi.us

Ada Township Board Meetings 2nd & 4th Monday 7:30 PM April ... 11th April... 25th May ... 9th May ... 23rd June... 13th June ... 27th

Ada Township Planning Commission 3rd Thursday 7:30 PM

April ...21st May... 19th June ...16th

Ada Township Zoning Board of Appeals 1st Tuesday 4:30PM

** April ... 12th (due to spring break) May ... 3rd June ...7th

Ada Township Office's will be closed Monday May 30th in observance of Memorial Day

Tornado: Plan to Survive!

The safest place to be in Tornado is underground, preferably under something sturdy such as a workbench.

If there is no basement in your home, a small room in the center of the home, such as a bathroom or closet is best.

In a Car: Never try to out run a tornado. If you see a funnel cloud or hear a tornado warning issue on the radio or by a siren, get out of your vehicle seek a safe structure or lie as flat as possible in a low area with your hands cover the back part of your head and neck.

Work, School or Shopping: Always check the emergency shelter plans of the building you enter. If you cannot locate one ask the establishment that you visit to please furnish one by the entry doors as a courtesy for their customers. If none are available always move to an interior hall or small room on the lowest floor of the building and lie flat.

Be Aware! Stay Alive!

*Always know were the emergency exits are where ever you are. Most public buildings have a diagram of emergency exits if not each exit should be lit.

Be Weather Wise!

(Furnished by Chief Meteorologist George Lessens WZZM-13)

Spring: March-April

Warmest ... 52.6"... 1977 Coldest ... 41.7"... 1890 Average ... 46.3"... Last Year ...49.6".. (11th warmest)

Average Precipitation... 10.50" Last Year ... 16.12"

Most Snow ...41.4" ...1965 Least... trace...1945 Average ... 11.8" Last Year ... 4.1" (tied 16th lightest)

Average Sunshine ... 50.4% Last Year ... 44.8% (12th Cloudiest)

PATRIOTS WANTED!

Uncle Sam Wants You! (to celebrate his birthday)

The Ada Township 4th of July Committee is looking for a few good men & women! Interested in being part of the front-line on

★☆★☆★☆★☆

Independence Day?

We Need You!

Please contact

Clerk Deb Ensing Millhuff millhuff@ada.mi.us

or

(616) 676-9191 ext: 20 or 21